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PP RUEHAG RUEHAST RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHDF RUEHIK RUEHLH RUEHLD RUEHLZ

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FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0462

INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE

RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE

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RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 3525

RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 1343

RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 1210

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RUEABND/DEA HQS WASHINGTON DC

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RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 2334

UNCLAS ASHGABAT 000361

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SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN: COUNTERNARCOTICS COORDINATION
COMMISSION SUGGESTS OPENING REGIONAL TRAINING FACILITY

REF: ASHGABAT 317

¶1. (U) Sensitive but unclassified. Not for public Internet.

¶2. (SBU) Executive Secretary of the State Counternarcotics Coordinating Commission Babaniyaz Chariyev told the embassy's INLOff and INL Assistant on the fringes of the World Bank Anti-Money Laundering workshop (reftel) that he would like the U.S. Government to assist in the establishment of a regional counternarcotics training center. (NOTE: The State Counternarcotics Coordinating Commission is under the Cabinet of Ministers, and is responsible for setting Turkmenistan's counternarcotics policy and strategy. END NOTE.) Chariyev made a reference to the Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC), and asked who founded it, who paid for it, and how Turkmenistan could have its own. Chariyev said that he envisioned a TADOC-like center in Turkmenistan functioning as a regional training hub for law enforcement officers from all Central Asian countries.

¶3. (SBU) COMMENT: That Turkmenistan is now coming up with initiatives on its own is a major step forward. In the past, Turkmenistan has been reluctant to engage in the region due to its neutrality policy. The government's new willingness to engage is possibly a sign of the president's vision on and interest in health issues and on drug abuse as a threat to the country's welfare and security. END COMMENT.

HOAGLAND